The Confession of Edward Fitz-Harys *Esquire, Written with his own Hand, and delivered to Dr.* Hawkins *Minister of the* Tower, July 1. 1681. *being the day of his Execution: Together with his last Speech.*

I *Edward Fitzharys*, having been Indicted of High Treason, for endeavouring to dethrone the KING, was thereupon found Guilty, and Sentence of Death passed upon me. I the aforesaid *Edward Fitz-harys* do voluntarily and freely, without any hopes to save my Life, but as a Dying Man, and to discharge my Conscience towards God, and for the better satisfaction of the World, make this Declaration following, in the presence of God, and unto Doctor *Francis Hawkins*, Chaplain of the *Tower* of *London*.

I do profess and declare my Religion in the general to be that which hath been truly and anciently delivered in the first Four General Councils; and in particular, my Belief is that true Faith of a Christian briefly contained in those three Creeds commonly called *The Apostles Creed*, *St. Athanasius's*, and *the Nicene Creeds*: And I die a Member, and in the Communion of *Christ's* Holy Catholick Church, hoping for Mercy through the alone Merits of the Passion of our Lord and Saviour *Jesus Christ*.

I do also confess and declare, as to the Crimes which I die for, I was no further concerned in the Libel, than as employed to give the King notice of what Libels or other Accusations there were against him; and to this Intent, and no other, I endeavoured to get this Libel: which at length I did from Mr. *Everard*, all written under his own Hand, and carried it to Mrs. *Wall*, by whose means I conveyed all Matters of this or the like nature to the King. I told her I had a Business of great consequence to acquaint the King with: But she answer'd me, That my Lord *Sunderland* being out, there would be no Money had for Secret Service, and advised me to go to the Lord *Clarendon* or *Hyde*: But before I could do this, I was taken. As for that part of the Libel which I left with *Everard*, as a Pledge to assure him I would not betray him, I received it of the Lord *Howard*: And the Money I received from the King, was for bringing a Libel called *The King Unvail'd*, and the *Lady Portsmouths Articles*. I call God to witness, I never had a Farthing Charity from the King.

I do further confess and declare, That the Lord *Howard* told me of a Design to seize upon the King's Person, and to carry him into the City, and there detain him till he had condescended to their Desires. *Heyns* and my self were privy to this Design, and had several Meetings with the Lord *Howard*; and as an En-

 couragement,

couragement, the Lord *Howard* assured us of breaking the Settlement of *Ireland*, taking off the Additional Revenue of the Bishops, Forty nine Men, and Grantees, whose Estates were to be shar'd amongst the Party.

I do confess and declare, That while I was in *Newgate*, the Sheriffs, *Bethel* and *Cornish*, came to me, with a Token from the Lord *Howard*, which I knew to be true, and brought Heads with them from *Everard*, wherein he accused me of being a Court-Emissary, or *Yorkist*, put on by the King to put the Libel into Protestants *Houses*, to trepan them. But I declare upon my death I had no such intent, nor do I know any such thing. The Sheriffs likewise told me, I was to be tryed within three or four Days, that the People would prosecute me, and the Parliament would Impeach me, and that nothing would save my Life but discovering the Popish Plot; and then the Sheriffs aforesaid gave me great Encouragement from my Lord *Howard*, that if I would declare that I believed so much of the Plot as amounted to the introducing the R. C. or if I could find out any that could Criminate the Queen, R. H. or make so much as a plausible Story to confirm the Plot, that the Parliament would restore me to my Fathers Estate, with the Profits thereof since His Majesties Restauration. I finding my self in the condition I was, in *Newgate*, Fettered, Moneyless and Friendless, my Wife ready to Ly-in, without any subsistence, my Children in a miserable condition, and must needs be in a worse by my death, and I could see no other Refuge for life, but complying with them; so, not with ambitious intent, but to save my life, I did comply. The Sheriffs brought Instructions, which they said came from the Lords and Commons, who met that day in order to Address to the King in my behalf (if I should confirm the Instructions;) and they made use of the Lord *Shaftsbury*'s Name, and others, what Advantage I might have thereby. At the first I made a formal Story concerning the Plot, which was not prejudicial to any body, but most relating to general Heads known publickly; upon which Mr. *Cornish* told me, These were things cry'd about the Streets two years ago: I replyed, I could say no more. Mr. Sheriff said, he was sorry for me with all his heart, but thought I could say more if I would, and pressed me hard to speak to several Heads, unto which unless I spoke, he said, there was no hopes of life; the Heads which I was to speak to, is what the Examination taken by Sir *Robert Clayton* and Sir *George Treby* contains, and a great deal more that I did not say then, relating to the Queen, R. H. Earl of *Danby*, declaring *French* Pensioners, Lords *Hallifax*, *Hyde*, *Clarendon*, *Ferversham*, *Seymer*, and others; the burning the Fleet, Forts and Governments in Popish hands, Meal-Tub-Plot, Prentices Plot, the Contrivance of the Libel on the Lady *Portsmouth*, being a *French* Design to destroy Protestants. These and many other Heads were brought to me by the Sheriffs.

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I do further confeſs and declare, That Sir *Robert Clayton* and Sir *George Treby* coming to me to examine me, Sir *Robert Clayton* asked me *what I could ſay concerning* Godfrey's *Murder?* I anſwered, Something. He replied *It may be I was in a Confuſion; recollect your ſelf.* And what I ſaid concerning Father *Patrick*, was forced out of me, and what I ſaid concering him is not true. Sir *George Treby* was with me three hours, or there bouts, and preſſed to ſay concerning *Godfrey's* Death: And ſaid, *Unleſs I could ſpeak to that Murder, I could ſay nothing*; Whereupon, I ſaid ſomething I had from others. He asked me *if I could ſay no more?* I replied, Is not this enough to ſave my Life? Am I not Rogue enough? The Recorder hereupon ſware, *'Zounds, what were you ever but a Rogue?* Then the Recorder entred upon the Heads of the Examination; which being done, he told me, *All this would not ſave my Life, unleſs I would ſpeak to the* Libel, *which was a Court-trick*; *And it was not for nothing that I had been ſeen ſo often at the Lady* Portſmouth's. The Lord *Shaftsbury* ſaid, *You know more of theſe matters than any man.* Sir *George* would have me ſpeak to the Conſult; that the *Duke* was at it, the Lords *Bellaſis*, *Arundel* and *Powis* were at it, *You have ſeen them go to it at St* James's; *without doubt they were there*; *Do you but ſay it, we have thoſe that will ſwear it.*

I do further declare and confeſs, That what I ſaid againſt the Queen and the Duke, I was put upon, in the matter of Sir *Edmundbury Godfrey's* Murder; And do further declare, That what I ſware againſt the Earl of *Danby*; the threatning words that were uttered I did (to the beſt of my remembrance) hear, but whom they concern'd I could not well know, by what my Lord himſelf ſaid. And what *de Puis* told me concerning my Lord of *Danby*, I do believe was ſpoken out of ill will; And what I ſaid againſt him, was to ſtave off my Tryal till a Parliament; and they were the more deſirous to accuſe the Lord *Danby* of *Godfrey's* Murder, becauſe the Crime of Murder is not inſerted in his Pardon. I am ſorry for what I ſaid againſt the Queen, his Royal Highneſs, and the Earl of *Danby*; I deſire God to forgive me the wrong I did them, and do heartily beg their Pardon.

I do further declare and proteſt, That this Confeſſion and Declaration of mine, I own ſincerely, as a dying man, and not to ſave my Life; And I call God and all his Angels to witneſs the Truth of it, And I renounce Mercy at the Hands of God Almighty, if this be not true.

And I do further declare and proteſt, as a dying man unto *James* Walmeſly, *Edward Pattel* and *Mary* Walmeſly, That I have made this Confeſſion and Declaration unto Dr. *Hawkins*, freely, and of my own voluntary accord, without any manner of promiſe made, or hops given me by him from the King of ſaving my Life by this Confeſſion; I having given him to underſtand beforehand they were matters of Conſequence, and ſuch as chiefly concerned the good of the King and Kingdom.

I give the Doctor my hearty Thanks for all his Prayers, Counsel and Charitable Offices he hath done me, and I pray God to bless him for ever for it. *I* forgive all the World, and desire all the World to forgive me; And the Lord have mercy on my Soul.

Edward Fitz-Harys.

This Protestation was made by Mr. Fitz-Harys, July 1. *between the hours of* 7 *and* 8 *in the morning, in the presence and hearing of us whose Names are here under-written.*

James Wolmesly, Edward Pattel, Mary Walmesly.

I Do hereby declare, That Mr. Fitz-Harys, *before he began to write any part of this Narrative, was, more than once, assured by me that there was no hope of his life, that I know of, whatever he should say; nor of his Salvation, if he should say any thing that he knew to be false: of which he being throughly sensible, and perfectly convinced, proceeded to write the Narrative aforesaid. And I continuing to admonish him upon every point that was material, not to say any thing but what was exactly true, he took occasion, at several periods of his Narrative, to kneel down, and solemnly to Protest the Truth of every word therein contained. And this I again declare upon the Faith of a Christian, and the word of a Minister of the Gospel.*

Francis Hawkins.

Mr. Fitz-Harys's Speech at his Execution.

GOod People, This Infamous kind of Death is much more irksom to me, than Death it self: Such a Judgment as this my Sins against God may justly bring upon me, and I do most humbly submit unto it. But as to the Crimes which I now die for, I take God to witness, I was no further concerned in the Libel, than to discover to the King what Practises of that kind were against him, being employed for that end, though those that employed me refused to do me Justice at my Tryal. And I call God to Witness, I never had a Farthing of Mony of the King in my life, but on the account of the like Service. And as to the Witnesses that have Sworn against me, I do here solemnly declare, now at my Death, that I have not seen the *French* Ambassador since the beginning of the breaking out of the Plot, neither have I had any acquaintance with him. And as to his Confessor, I never spoke with him in my life; neither have I had any dealing, either directly or indirectly, in my life with them, though Sir *William Waller* and the rest Swore most falsly to the contrary. And how like it is that the *French* Ambassador would give three thousand Crowns for writing that Libel, I leave the world to Judge. What I might further declare, *I* have left with Doctor *Hawkins*. I forgive all the World, and do hope that God will forgive me. *I* beg the Prayers of all good People for a happy Passage into the other World.

Edw. Fitz-Harys.

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